

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 L-03 CA-01
INSE-00 /042 R

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ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA
-----024667 220150Z /66

P R 212331Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR USMISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, BF, HA

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL HAITIAN ALIENS

REF: NASSAU 1288, 1141, AND 924

1. INFLUX OF LARGE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL HAITIAN ALIENS INTO
FLORIDA FROM THE BAHAMAS HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE
PUBLICITY, CONCERN, AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST.
ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR IN PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES IN THE BAHAMAS AND LAUNCHING ON JUNE 11 OF
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ROUND-UP OF ILLEGAL HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS LIVING ON NEW
PROVIDENCE ISLAND HAS APPARENTLY LED TO MASS EXODUS OF
ILLEGAL HAITIANS FROM BAHAMAS TO FLORIDA. ALTHOUGH
EMBASSY REPORTS BAHAMIAN ROUND-UP IS TO BE FOLLOWED
BY REPATRIATION TO HAITI BY THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT,
LARGE NUMBER OF HAITIANS ARE FLEEING THE BAHAMAS FOR
FLORIDA BEFORE THEY CAN BE ROUNDED UP, AND THERE ARE

PRESS REPORTS THAT BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING
HAITIAN ALIEN EXODUS TO FLORIDA.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS THIS SITUATION WITH
THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT AND TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT
WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: (A) IS HAITIAN ROUND-UP
CONTINUING; (REF A REPORTS IT WAS TEMPORARILY DISCONTINUED

ON JUNE 13 FOR FOURTEEN DAYS TO "ALLOW ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
TO CLOSE OUT BANK ACCOUNTS AND OTHERWISE SETTLE THEIR
AFFAIRS AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY")? (B) ARE ILLEGAL
HAITIAN ALIENS BEING REPATRIATED BY THE BAHAMAS AND, IF
SO, HOW MANY HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED? (C) HOW MANY
HAITIANS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP? (D) HOW MANY ILLEGAL
HAITIANS DOES BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE ARE RESIDING
IN THE BAHAMAS? (E) WHAT ARE BAHAMIAN LAWS AND
REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, THEIR
HANDLING, AND THEIR REPATRIATION? (PLEASE SEND COPY OF
LAWS AND REGULATIONS.) FOR EXAMPLE, DO HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS
HAVE RECOURSE TO BAHAMIAN COURTS AND CAN THEY RECEIVE
TEMPORARY WORK PERMITS? (F) WHAT STEPS IS BAHAMIAN
GOVERNMENT TAKING TO PREVENT ENTRY OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
AND THEIR EXIT TO THE U.S.? (G) WHAT CONTROLS, SUCH
AS WORK PERMITS, DOES BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE OVER
ALIEN WORKERS?

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3. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS
RE WILLINGNESS OF BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH
U.S. IN PREVENTING EXODUS OF HAITIANS TO FLORIDA, THE
BEST MANNER IN WHICH THIS COOPERATION CAN BE ACHIEVED
AND CARRIED OUT, AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ENSURE
THAT EXODUS TO FLORIDA IS EFFECTIVELY CONTAINED.

DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EXPEDITIOUS RESPONSE
IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ALIENS, IMMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE185416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCGRIFFITH:SMA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-0283
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780732/aaaabaul.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1db38a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NASSAU 1288
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1922141
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILLEGAL HAITIAN ALIENS
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, SPOP, BF, HA, US
To: NASSAU
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1db38a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014